Welfare and Rehabilitation of Ex-servicemen

324. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of schemes being implemented by the Government for the welfare and rehabilitation of the ex-servicemen and dependents of deceased soldiers presenting in tribal, rural, backward and plateau region of Maharashtra;

(b) the year-wise amount spent on the welfare and rehabilitation of ex-servicemen/deceased soldiers during the last three years; and

(c) the number of persons benefited from these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (c) The Central Government schemes and programmes for re-habilitation and welfare of ex-Servicemen are applicable to the ex-Servicemen residing in all the States including the State of Maharashtra and the tribal, rural, backward, plateau region of that State. The Central Government schemes/programmes are as under :

(i) Central Government has provided following percentage of reservation in Government jobs for ex-Servicemen :

	Central Government	Central PSUs/ Banks
Group 'C' posts	10%	14.5%
Group 'D' posts	20%	24.5%

(ii) Besides, in Para Military Forces, a reservation of 10% is also provided in posts of Assistant Commandants. Recruitment in Defence Security Corps is earmarked for ex-Servicemen.

(iii) Relaxation in age and educational qualifications for ex-Servicemen for employment in Government jobs.

(iv) Training programmes for improving their employability or to enable them to take self-employment after retirement.

(v) Loan facilities under SEMFEX-1, SEMFEX-II and SEMFEX-III Schemes for setting up self-employment ventures.

(vi) 7.5% of petroleum product agencies reserved for allotment to widows/dependents of posthumous gallantry award winners, war disabled, war widows etc.

(vii) Ex-Servicemen transport companies for transportation of bulk LPG/Coal.

(viii) Financial assistance to needy ex-Servicemen from Raksha Mantri's Discretionary Fund.

(ix) Reimbursement of 60% expenditure for treatment of serious diseases viz., Bypass surgery, kidney transplant, cancer etc., from the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund.

(x) 75% Concession in rail fare for travel in II class to war widows and 50% concession in fare for air travel in domestic flights of Indian Airlines to recipients of gallantry awards of Class I & II viz, PVC, MVC, Ashok Chakra and Kirti Chakra and to permanently war disabled officers and dependent members of their families.

(xi) Canteen facilities from the nearest Unit Run Canteens.

(xii) Free Medical facilities at existing Military Hospitals.

(xiii) Entitled to short stay in the Sainik Rest Houses.

(xiv) Educational concessions to the children of Armed Forces Personnel killed or disabled in action.

2. In addition to the above schemes, State Government of Maharashtra is giving a number of concessions and benefits to ex-Servicemen residing in this State.

3. Tribal, rural, backward and plateau region-wise information about the amount spent on rehabilitation and welfare schemes and the number of beneficiaries is not maintained. In the entire State of Maharashtra, a total of 646 and 861 ex-Servicemen were provided jobs during 1995 and 1996 respectively. During the last three financial years, a total of 415 ex-Servicemen have been provided loans/ financial assistance of about Rs. 209.02 lakhs under the SEMFEX schemes in the State. The medical facilities to ex-Servicemen are provided through a network of 12 Military Hospitals located in the State of Maharashtra. There are 26 Sainik Rest Houses in the State. During the last three years, 32 ex-Servicemen have been provided financial assistance of Rs. 6.10 lakhs from the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund and Raksha Mantri's Discretionary Fund for repair of houses, daughters' marriage, medical treatment etc. An expenditure of Rs. 1,04,535/- has been incurred under PEXSEM scheme in Maharashtra for training of ex-Servicemen during 1993-94 and 1994-95.

Compensation to the Legal Heirs of Non Resident Indians

325. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the compensation payable to the legal heirs of Non Resident Indians who dies in Gulf countries is being inordinately delayed by the sponsors in the Gulf countries;

(b) whether Indian missions in Gulf countries have been given directions to bring the matter into notice of the authorities of those countries; and